

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 170925Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9992

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 14722

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG CB ID

SUBJ: CAMBODIA POL RESUPPLY

REF: A. STATE 245582 B. JAKARTA 14628

1. SATURDAY DECEMBER 15 KHMER AMBASSADOR AND COMMERCE MINISTER MET WITH INDONESIAN MINISTER OF MINES SADLI, WHO THEY SAY ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR REQUEST REASONABLE AND PROBABLY FEASIBLE IN VIEW OF COMPARATIVELY SMALL QUANTITIES SOUGHT. SADLI SAID KHMER EMISSARIES SHOULD SEE THREE TOP FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY FIGURES AND PERSUADE THEM TO MAKE A DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST IN MEETING KHMER REQUEST. THE THREE ARE FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND GENERALS SUMITRO AND ALI MURTOPO.

2. DECEMBER 16 COMMERCE MINISTER SAPHON SARASI DEPARTED JAKARTA FOR PHNOM PENH.

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3. DECEMBER 17 POLITICAL COUNSELOR RENEWED OUR EARLIER

REPRESENTATIONS TO ALEX ALATAS, CHIEF OF MALIK'S PERSONAL STAFF, AND URGED HIM SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT WITH MALIK FOR KHMER AMBASSADOR ASAP AND CONVEY TO MALIK IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS MATTER. APPOINTMENT NOW SCHEDULED FOR NOON DECEMBER 18 AT MALIK'S RESIDENCE. POL COUNSELOR ALSO REVIEWED WITH ALATAS, WHO IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND COOPERATIVE, JUST WHAT KHMER WERE SEEKING AND TOLD HIM EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT GKR REQUEST AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE GOI LEVELS AND INTENDED TO DO SO. ADDED THAT MINISTER SADLI AHD HELD OUT CONSIDERABLE ENCOURAGEMENT, AS HAD ALSO PERTAMINA, AND HAD SUGGESTED KHMER RAISE MATTER WITH MALIK, SUMITRO AND MURTOPO.

4. MORNING DECEMBER 18 AND PRIOR TO SCHEDULED MALIK-KHMER MEETING, CHARGE WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITY SPEAK TO SUBJECT WITH MALIK AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONY FOR PRIME MINISTER KIRK. MISSION ALSO CARRYING OUT SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP WITH SUMITRO, ALI MURTOPO AND PERTAMINA.

5. COMMENT: A) WHILE NEITHER KHMER AMBASSADOR NOR MINISTER OF COMMERCE STRIKE US AS BEING VERY FORCEFUL, TELA KHMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL IS ARTICULATE, EFFECTIVE AND KNEW HIS SUBJECT WELL. FORTUNATELY, KHMER EMISSARIES, ARRIVED HERE WITH A PIECE OF PAPER DATED DECEMBER 8, 1973 ENTITLED "REQUIREMENTS OF PETROLEUM FUELS IN KHMER REPUBLIC." THIS CONCISE, ONE-PAGE DOCUMENT PUTS THEIR CASE WELL AND SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. WHOEVER PREPARED THIS BRIEF PERFORMED A VERY USEFUL SERVICE FOR THIS UNDERTAKING. B) IN PAST, SOME KHMER EMISSARIES HAVE CARRIED LETTERS TO SUHARTO FROM LON NOL. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, COMMERCE MINISTER DID NOT, AND HIS MISSION MAY HAVE SUFFERED FROM THIS. IN FACT, THERE MAY STILL BE A PLACE FOR A MESSAGE FROM LON NOL TO SUHARTO TO SUPPORT HIS AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS. KLIEFORTH

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